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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/687,544	NAGEL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PHAN T.H. PALMER	2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 10/16/2003.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. The drawings filed on 16 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
 of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Phan T. H. Palmer
PHAN T. H. PALMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
02/19/2005

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT *Amdt/PRHP*

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In page 1, on line 2, "a undersea" changed to --an undersea--; and
- In page 6, on line 26, "fiber add 2228" changed to --fiber add 228--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claims are allowable over prior art of record, because none of the references in alone or in combination discloses:

+++ A branching unit for interconnecting at least three undersea optical transmission cables, said branching unit comprising:

- first, second and third ports for receiving first, second and third undersea optical transmission cables, respectively, said first and second cables each including an electrical power conductor and a plurality of first optical fibers, said third cable being electrically unpowered and including at least one drop optical fiber and at least one add optical fiber;

- an electrical power conductor segment for electrically coupling the

conductor in the first cable received in the first port to the conductor in the second cable received in the second port a first optical fiber segment optically coupling a first of the plurality of first optical fibers in one of the first or second cables to the drop optical fiber of the third cable;

- a second optical fiber segment optically coupling a second of the plurality of first optical fibers in one of the first and second cables to the add optical fiber of the third cable;

- first and second optical amplifiers located along the first and second optical fiber segments, respectively so that the first optical amplifier provides optical gain to traffic being dropped on the drop optical fiber of the third cable and the second optical amplifier provides optical gain to traffic being added on the add optical fiber of the third cable; and

- at least one electrically conductive path for supplying electrical energy from at least one of the electrical power conductors to each of the optical amplifiers.

The underline limitations are critically, since the branching unit is improved: it does not require electrical power to be rerouted in the event of a cable fault; it does not require such complex active power control.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONTACT INFORMATION

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHAN T.H. PALMER whose telephone number is (571) 272-2354. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/4 OFF MONDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RODNEY B. BOVERNICK can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PTHP
02/19/2005

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PRIMARY EXAMINER